

LAKE FORK RIVER COMMITTEE ANNUAL MEETING

January 13, 2020

Rodger Ames chairman of the board called the meeting to order at 1:00pm

PRESENT: Leland (Lee) Carter Lake Fork Yellowstone and Sand Wash Creek River Commissioner
Rodger Ames Associate Water Users/Chairman of the Lake Fork River Board
Kirk Christensen Associate Water Users/Director of the Lake Fork River Board
Ken Asay Bureau of Indian Affairs/Division of irrigation

ELECTION OF NEW CHAIRMAN:

A motion was made by Kirk Christensen to leave Rodger Ames in as chairman. A second was made by Ken Asay. All in favor. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Rodger Ames read the minutes for the January 2019 meeting

A motion was made by Kirk Christensen to accept the minutes with corrections. A second was made by Ken Asay. All in favor. Motion carried.

RIVER COMMISSIONERS REPORT: Lee went through the 2019 Water Commissioner Report. A full report is available to review. Total water diverted: 186,098.41. Associated water: 75.503%. Uintah Project: 24.497%. Lee said that in a better year the associated will pay a little more. Assessment is adjusted each year depending on water usage. Rodger asked who has the bigger water share. Hartman's or Huff's and Lee said that Hartman's has the bigger share. Ken asked if the TN Dodd is this same as the TN Dodd on the Uintah side. Lee said yes, it is. Lee said that he is sending water thru the Yellowstone Feeder Canal to TN Dodd, Dry Gulch, Monarch Canal, and Browns Reservoir. This is water from Moon Lake Water Users Association. Ken asked if Myrin ranch (Purdy) delivers tribal water and Lee said yes, they do. Ken asked about the Gilbert pipeline do these acres count together with the BIA and Uteland/Purdy. Lee said it is broke down in the Uteland Ditch Co. Ken asked if anyone on the board was involved with the Uteland/Purdy pipeline and the board said no they are not. 2019 budget was \$105,500 and \$99,079.77 was spent. River automation savings is \$11,741.05. Lee said that the Worker Comp has doubled in cost, so Lee is checking into the cost to go with a different company. Lee said that Shawn Keel did contact him, and he was going to show Shawn the automation system. Ken said that they need to get Shawn on board, so they have someone to call when there is an issue. Lee said that there is Lee Carter, Shane Hamblin, and Dex Winterton that all have an idea of how things work. Rodger asked if the problems are in the maintenance and Lee said sometimes it is just a battery that needs to be changed or a reset which any of them could do. Lee said that early in the season he gets them up and running and in the middle of the season is when it gets a little busier and he can't get to them as quickly. Rodger asked if Lee was ok with getting Shawn Keel on board and Lee said yes, he is. Ken asked to have Shawn get in touch with him so Shawn can go out when some of the automation is installed. The board agrees that putting things online with that automation it should be limited with who is doing those changes. The board discussed how the automation works. Disbursements: 194,718.80. The CD of 20,399.70 had been closed out so Lee is working on trying to find out why and who closed it out. Lee said that if the account is inactive for 10-11 months the bank can close the account and the funds are sent to the state. Lee said that this CD has been with Wells Fargo since 2007 and they haven't had any problem until now, but he is working on getting these funds back. Rodger said that he and Lee have set a duty schedule at 1/70 and he wanted to make sure that everyone is ok with the way they have been running it. Lee said that they have not been running the compact duty schedule because it looks like they are doing changes just to change. Lee feel like it should be a 7 day change instead of a 10-day change. Ken asked if all water users are following the schedule and Lee said that all tribal follow that schedule. Rodger said that everyone that gets water out of the US Lakefork heading follows that schedule. Everyone that has Indian water they are put on the same schedule. Ken asked Rodger if he runs all Dry Gulch water users on this duty schedule and Rodger said everything delivered out of the US Lakeford heading following that 1/70 duty schedule. Ken asked about the Dry Gulch water users and Lee said that if they are running to high, they get turned off. Lee said that they have secondary water rights that create part of the river flow. Then they have Moon Lake storage if the river is not being consumed by the Uintah project put as soon as they are out of water Lee calls Rodger and Rodger turns them off at that time. If they are outside of the US Lakefork project, they are on a call system and again once they are out of water they get turned off. Ken asked about the Yellowstone feeder how it is being delivered. Lee said that at the heading whatever he sends off the river he measures about 1000' off the river at the diversion site and it is sent through the Yellowstone Canal to Dry Gulch and other Moon Lake Water Users. Ken said there is concern on the BIA side because it is

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coming in lower in the Uintah system that mixes with Uintah Project Water and then some of that is being sent to Dry Gulch users. Lee said that Shane would have to talk about that because Lee doesn't have anything to do with that delivery on the Uintah side. Ken asked about the stock water ponds at Clay basin. Lee said water delivery was based on estimation of water flow for period using a site further down Yellowstone Feeder automation site. Ken asked about the site in Neola for measuring delivery to Uintah side and Rodger said that there is a site by Randy Crozier that measures and is automated to show loss difference. Ken asked if there are any outlets before that and is it measured, and they said yes, it is measured. Rodger said this is one of the reasons that they did the equalization for the water to balance everything. Ken said that all of the Dry Gulch water that is delivered to Uintah and Uintah #1 canals they are running on their own duty schedule and they cannot deliver separately so the problem they have is the duty schedule if different so at the end of the year it changes because of the storage. Lee said this system isn't that complicated and the water is tracked separately. Kirk explains Moon Lake Water Users on Yellowstone Feeder Canal. Full report is in the 2019 Water Commissioner Report. Ken asked about turnout water exchange between Uintah Project and Moon Lake Water Users at the end of the season in dry years. Lee said he wouldn't do that again. Ken wondered why since he has done that for a couple of dry years. Lee said it seemed to be beneficial to everyone involved. Lee talked to the BIA director and Moon Lake Water Association and facilitated exchange. Moon Lake storage water was added to river flow to keep Uintah Indian Project duty to a deliverable amount at a higher level and then after a period of time Uintah Project duty schedule would be shut off to just stock water flows and then Moon Lake could recoup some of that water from low river flows. Everyone thought that it was a good idea. Lee said he would not implement the exchange in the future even though it had been beneficial to both parties because alternative views may occur. Ken mentioned that water is being stored when the tribe is not on in March and part of April. Ken said his assumption is that they will take early flow if a dam was built for tribal water. Rodger talked about in the spring April/May when Uintah Project is turn on if they wait a couple weeks then the secondary could be putting it into storage then in the fall the tribe would have a month and a half that would effect what the secondary would get. Ken said that the tribe is always talking about trying to make better facilities for storage, but they would need to get new appropriation to get things done. Lee asked if the tribe is looking to have exclusive lakes and Ken said he didn't think so they are just looking for more storage which would be beneficial for everyone. Lee said that it would be beneficial to have some storage on the Uintah project that for storage, and it would be good to have secondary and project waters to build something together.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES: Lee went through the expenditures and the budget and the total expenditures for 2019 were \$105,500. Ken asked about the associated water and Lee said it is to help cover some of their cost. Kirk asked about giving Lee a raise. This was talked about last year, but it was not voted on last year. Lee said that he feels like he would be good with a cost of living raise but he is good with what the board approves. The board discussed giving Lee a raise and this is a good way to show their appreciation. Kirk said that 3% would be about \$3,000. Ken said that cost of living is a little under 3%. Ken is ok with giving Lee a raise. Kirk asked about the automation and the board feels like they should still put some in for automation.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Income for the 2019 year: \$105,500. Assessments of associated water users: \$75,581.14. Assessment Uintah Indian Irr. Project: \$29,918.86. Expenses: \$99,079.77. Overall total for expenses: \$6,420.23

2020 PROPOSED BUDGET & ASSESMENTS: Lee went over the 2020 budget and assessments and everything will stay the same except for Lee's wages which will go up to \$70,000 bringing the total proposed budget to \$107,900.00 for the 2020 year. Lee asked about the river automation budget and the board feels like they should still put some in for automation so if something happens the funds will be there. Ken said they should leave it as is and then if they reach about \$20,000, they could look at doing something different. Assessments will stay the same except for the \$2,400.00 for Lee's wage increase. Total assessments for the 2020 year are \$107,900.00.

A motion was made by Ken Asay to accept the budget for the 2020 year with the increase of Lee's wages. A second was made by Kirk Christensen. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Kirk Christensen to accept the assessments to the 2020 year. A second was made by Ken Asay. All in favor. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF RIVER COMMISSIONER:

A motion was made by Ken Asay to have Leland L (Lee) Carter as the Lake Fork, Yellowstone River Commissioner. A second was made by Kirk Christensen. All in favor. Motion carried

Lee will take the paperwork over to the attorney and petition the court.

ADJOURNMENT: Kirk Christensen motioned to adjourn at 2:40pm.